



# SOUTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

307 CURTIS CORNER ROAD, WAKEFIELD, RI 02879-2106



**Linda Savastano**

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

(401) 360-1307

FAX (401) 360-1330

TTY 1 800 745-5555

email: lsavastano@sksd-ri.net

Name	<b>Linda Savastano, South Kingstown School District Superintendent</b>
Bill	<b>2021-H5696</b>
Viewpoint	<b>IN STRONG SUPPORT</b>

Please accept my personal letter of STRONG support for 2021-H5696. *[The Town of South Kingstown to issue not more than \$85,000,000 bonds and notes to finance the construction, renovation, improvement, alteration, repair, landscaping, furnishing, and equipping of schools and school facilities.]*

The South Kingstown School Building Project would provide much-needed work for each of our school buildings. The projects would be financed with a 20-year bond for \$85 million, with anticipated State reimbursement for 50% of eligible costs. In addition, the Town would invest \$7.66 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds that are also eligible for State reimbursement.

Specifically, the project would:

- Expand, renovate and convert Curtis Corner Middle School into a relocated South Kingstown High School.
- Expand and renovate the Broad Rock site into a true middle school, serving all students in grades 6-8.
- Make capital investments in all four elementary schools, including renovated library/media/maker centers, and add grade 5 to all.

We know that if we want cultures of learning that cultivate energy, creativity, curiosity, imagination, and innovation, then we need to create learning spaces where students feel safe in taking risks. This work will allow our learning environments to take a significant step forward so that we can support the future-ready space that our community, our educators and most importantly, our students deserve it.

Environmental scientists have published dozens of studies that show a close correlation between human productivity and space design. This research clearly demonstrates that students and teachers do better when they have variety, flexibility, and comfort in their environment—the very qualities that our classrooms lack. If we want our students to be curious, connected collaborators, then we need to provide physical and virtual multidimensional spaces that offer flexibility for collaboration; quiet places for reflection and cognition; active areas for investigation, inquiry, communication; and rich resources that are transparently accessible. This project will allow us to do this and lay the foundation for our students today and for years to come.

I am grateful for your time and consideration. Please learn more by visiting:

<http://www.sksdbuild.org/wp-content/uploads/SK-Building-Projects-Fact-Sheet-2.5.21.pdf>



**We envision our learning community to be a joyful place that nurtures the love of learning by providing equitable opportunities for all students to discover their passion as they collaboratively engage in authentic activities in an environment where they feel physically and emotionally safe.**